

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

18. (New) A prosthesis for replacing a surface in an area of a ball of a ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a spherical shell section having an outer surface that is configured to lie in an articular fossa and is for attachment to a surface, the shell section having a cavity for receiving a bone end; and

a crown that partitions the cavity of the shell section into a first cavity and a second cavity;

wherein a shape of the shell section is at least a section of a hemisphere and a free edge of the crown lies in the same plane as a free edge of the shell section.

19. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the spherical shell section has a height h that is about 65% to 90% of a radius of the ball.

20. (New) The prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the spherical shell section has a height h that is about 70% to 85% of the radius of the ball.

21. (New) The prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the spherical shell section has a height h that is about 80% of the radius of the ball.

22. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the first cavity has a circular shape and the second cavity has an annular shape.

23. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein an innermost end of the crown is integrally connected to the inner surface of the shell section so as to form a single integral structure.

24. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein at least one of the inner surface of the shell section and a surface of the crown is configured for contact with the bone end and is therefore a roughened surface.

25. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the crown has at least one opening formed therein to provide communication between the first and second cavities.

26. (New) The prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the at least one opening comprises at least five openings.

27. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein at least of an inner surface and an outer surface of the crown has a relief structure formed as a part thereof.

28. (New) The prosthesis of claim 27, wherein the relief structure comprises a fluting that is formed by ring beads that extend circumferentially around the crown.

29. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the inner surface of the shell section includes a relief structure that extends along an edge of the shell section.

30. (New) The prosthesis of claim 29, wherein the relief structure comprises fluting formed circumferentially around the inner surface of the shell section.

31. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the crown and shell section are separate parts and are constructed to be securely coupled to one another.

32. (New) The prosthesis of claim 31, wherein the crown and shell section are constructed to be threadingly coupled to one another by means of threads formed on at least one of an outer surface of the crown and the inner surface of the shell section.

33. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the crown has a shape selected from the group consisting of a circle and a polygon.

34. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the crown is arrayed in a coaxial manner.

35. (New) The prosthesis of claim 18, wherein the crown and shell section are individual parts and are connected to one another by a mechanical fit selected from the group consisting of screw threading, a bayonet joint and a clamping device.

36. (New) A prosthesis for replacing a surface in an area of a ball of a ball-and-socket joint comprising:

a spherical shell section having an outer surface that is configured to lie in an articular fossa and is for attachment to a surface, the shell section having a cavity for receiving a bone end; and

a crown that partitions the cavity of the shell section into a first cavity and a second cavity;

wherein a shape of the shell section is at least a section of a hemisphere and a free edge of the crown is displaced from a plane in which a free edge of the shell section lies.

37. (New) The prosthesis of claim 36, wherein the free edge of the crown projects by up to 5 mm over the plane in which the free edge of the shell section lies.

38. (New) The prosthesis of claim 37, wherein the free edge of the crown projects from about 1 mm to about 3 mm.

39. (New) The prosthesis of claim 36, wherein the free edge of the crown does not intersect the plane in which the free edge of the shell section lies.

40. (New) The prosthesis of claim 39, wherein the free edge of the crown is up to about 5 mm from the plane containing the free edge of the shell section.

41. (New) A procedure for implantation of a prosthesis in a bone comprising the steps of:

preparing the bone and forming a groove in the bone;

providing a prosthesis for replacing a surface in an area of a ball of a ball-and-socket joint, the prosthesis including a spherical shell section and a crown, the shell section having an outer surface that is configured to lie in an articular fossa and is for attachment to a surface, the shell section having a cavity for receiving a bone end, the crown partitioning the cavity of the shell section into a first cavity and a second cavity, wherein a shape of the shell section is at least a section of a hemisphere and a free edge of the crown lies in the same plane as a free edge of the shell section; and

inserting the prosthesis onto the bone such that the crown is received in the groove formed in the bone.

42. (New) A set of prostheses comprising:

a plurality of prostheses according to claim 1, wherein the shell section are formed of diameters that differ from one another and a ratio of a height (h) of the shell section to a respective ball diameter is equal for the different prosthesis and a diameter of each crown amounts to the same percentage of a diameter of the spherical shell section.